

## THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW CELEBRATES 45 YEARS OF TJSL AND WSU HISTORY



“It’s amazing to think that over 7,000 lives have been touched by the education they’ve received as a result of graduating from WSU and TJSL.” Those were the words spoken by Western State University College of Law graduate George Cretton ’87 while attending the private Western State luncheon honoring alumni from 1969–1994 that took place on Saturday, October 11 on the 8th floor of the TJSL campus.

“Thank you all for being here,” said Dean Thomas Guernsey “This law school exists and will continue to exist because of our amazing WSU and TJSL graduates. The point of the luncheon this afternoon is to focus on our WSU grads. They are among our most distinguished alums and have made their imprint on our legal community very clear and we truly appreciate that.”

As part of the Inaugural TJSL Alumni Weekend, alumni, faculty and staff also joined together on Friday, October 10th at the 19th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament and Saturday, October 11th to help celebrate the schools 45 year anniversary.

On Friday, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Salt Creek Golf Club, faculty, students, staff and alumni competed for prizes

in a shotgun style golf tournament followed by a cocktail reception and awards dinner where the rock band, The Innocent Bystanders, consisting of Professors Steve Berenson, Jeff Slattery, Kaimipono Wenger, Steve Semeraro and former Communications Media Relations Director Chris Saunders played.

The Annual Alumni Golf Tournament raised funds for the Thomas Jefferson School of Law Veterans Legal Assistance Clinic and the New Guaranteed Merit Scholarship Program.

On Saturday, TJSL and Western State Alumni came together to mingle with current TJSL students at the 6 p.m. reception held on the 8th floor of the TJSL campus.

Before heading up to the 8th floor on Saturday, October 11 for the 6 p.m. reception, alumni and their guests gathered for a social hour at the newly opened Bottega Americano located in the Lobby of the TJSL campus.

Throughout the day, participants also took tours of the TJSL campus from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

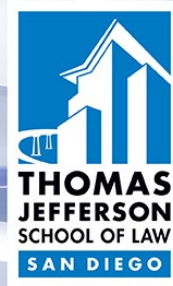
In addition to the Saturday WSU luncheon at noon and TJSL reception at 6 p.m., TJSL also hosted an MCLE Seminar in room 325. The seminar provided four opportunities for participants to earn two general and two ethics MCLE credits. The MCLE seminar was free for TJSL alumni.

This year also highlighted the first ever Reunion Giving Challenge which invited alumni to make a gift, in honor of their class year and demonstrate their class’s superior commitment to TJSL’s mission. The class of 1974 was recognized on Saturday evening at the Alumni Awards Reception. Two distinguished alumni were also honored on Saturday evening. Craig A. Sherman’93 received the Outstanding Service to Community Award and the Honorable Roger T. Benitez ’78 received the Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award and was also inducted into the Alumni Wall of Fame.

“What an amazing feeling to see so many wonderful alumni, from the 1970’s to 2014, all gathered in one place to celebrate all of their outstanding accomplishments and 45 years of TJSL,” said Director of Alumni Relations Stephanie Marquez.

[View all event photos](#)





# DISABILITY AND THE LAW

## Jameson Crane III Writing Competition

Thomas Jefferson School of Law Dean Thomas Guernsey announced the September launch of the [First Annual Jameson Crane III Disability and the Law Writing Competition](#). Made possible by the generous gift of TJS� alumnus Jim Crane '13, the national competition aims to encourage outstanding student scholarship at the intersection of law and medicine, or law and the social sciences. Open to currently enrolled U.S. law students, medical students, and doctoral candidates in related fields, the competition promotes understanding of legal issues related to disability, furthers the development of legal rights and protections, and improves the lives of those with disabilities.

"The Crane competition demonstrates our law school's commitment to excellence in legal and policy analysis for underserved populations," said Dean Guernsey. "Improving life for the disabled requires changing attitudes and assumptions. Our hope is that the Crane competition will provide a forum for such change," he noted.

Competition submissions may address any legal topic related to disability law, including issues regarding employment, government services and programs, public accommodations, education, higher education, housing, and health care. An independent panel of experts will judge submissions anonymously

based on originality, topic complexity, research quality, organization and analysis, and writing quality to select three winners. The first place winner will receive \$1,500, while two-second place winners will each receive \$1,000. The Thomas Jefferson Law Review will also consider the first place submission for publication.

TJS� Professor Susan Bisom-Rapp is coordinating the competition. She noted that, "disability law is a rich and complex area of the law, and one we take seriously at the law school." In fact, TJS� has recently signed the ABA Commission on Disability Rights' "Pledge for Change." The Pledge for Change commits legal employers to pursuing diversity in the profession with an emphasis on disability diversity. TJS� is now on the Commission's Diversity Honor Roll.

All competition submissions must be made electronically to [cranewritingcompetition@tjssl.edu](mailto:cranewritingcompetition@tjssl.edu) by midnight, Pacific Standard Time, January 15, 2015. Winners will be announced by April 15, 2015. Further details about the competition are [available here](#). Any questions may be directed to Professor Bisom-Rapp at [susanb@tjssl.edu](mailto:susanb@tjssl.edu).

### ALUMNI VIDEO SERIES EPISODE THREE: RANDY GROSSMAN '94 SPORTS AGENT AND CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY

On September 22, 2014, the [third episode of the Alumni Video Series](#) was released. This episode features Professor Randy Grossman '94. Professor Grossman is a Sports Agent, A Criminal Defense Attorney and an Adjunct Professor at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law. He has taught Sports Law at TJS� since 2000 and also teaches Trial Practice. Additionally, he is a member of the TJS� Board of Trustees.

Professor Grossman is certified as a player agent by the Major League Baseball Players Association and represents former players such as Hall of Famer

Dave Winfield and 7-time All-Star Tim Lincecum. During the course of his career, he has worked with players ranging from Hank Aaron to Willie Mays.

"What I do is something that I love," said Professor Grossman. "I love the practice of law, I love representing players and teaching students."

During a career in sports that spans more than 25 years, Professor Grossman began as a sportscaster for an NBC television affiliate on the nightly news. From there, he went to work for former L.A. Dodger and San Diego Padre Steve Garvey, who

had a sports marketing company, where Professor Grossman was exposed to the world of corporate marketing and endorsements for professional athletes. During this period, he worked with clients such as Magic Johnson, Tony Gwynn and Robin Ventura, pairing them with companies such as Canon, Xerox and Rawlings. "Going into law school my idea was to move from marketing of baseball players to the representation of baseball players."

Professor Grossman is also the TJS� faculty advisor for the Sports Law Society, the National Sports Law



Negotiation Competition, PAD Mock Trial Competitions in Las Vegas and Washington, D.C. and the National Baseball Arbitration Competition held at Tulane University Law School which, Thomas Jefferson School of Law was crowned as the National Champions in 2012.

He practices law in the areas of contract litigation and criminal defense, where he has tried many high profile cases ranging from bank theft to murder and is licensed to practice before all courts in the State of California, the United States District Court for the Southern District and the United States Supreme Court.

Professor Grossman has traveled to Africa and China on Major League Baseball goodwill tours. He has attended Major League Baseball games at 29 of the 30 current stadiums.

"I've been very fortunate to travel the world with Dave Winfield," said Professor Grossman. "I've been to the white house



to meet the President of the United States in the Oval Office with Dave Winfield. It's really about the relationships you build with your clients. They become more than just clients; they become a part of your everyday life. Dave Winfield was the best man at my wedding."

To those students who have recently graduated, Professor Grossman's advice is, "Get out there and engage with people, this is especially true in the legal world. It is all about relationships and your clients."

[View the entire Alumni Video Series](#)

## REGISTER FOR THE MILITARY SPOUSE CAREER CONFERENCE BEING HELD THIS FRIDAY OCTOBER 17

Military spouse attorneys face unique barriers to career growth. At the same time, their status as military spouses offers special opportunities to serve the community and to benefit from a worldwide network of supportive mentors. On Friday, October 17, TJSJ will welcome to campus the Military Spouse JD Network's annual "Making the Right Moves" Conference, which concerns career growth for military spouse attorneys and law students. The conference is an all-day professional

development and leadership training event that will focus on creating and following a successful career path tailored to the unique needs of military spouse attorneys – but it will be an important and relevant event for current and former service members as well.

Dean Thomas Guernsey will deliver the opening remarks. "MSJDN's decision to bring the event to TJSJ is a reflection of our school's reputation for being a leader in educating service members and their spouses," said Dean Guernsey. "At TJSJ, we respect the discipline and focus that military-connected students bring to law study. We are happy that the upcoming event will provide these students with a chance to learn from successful practitioners whose lives have taken similar paths."

Professor Amy Day is a military spouse and the director of TJSJ's new

Center for the Study of Women and the Military. "Mentorship plays a vital role for military spouse attorneys," said Professor Day. "It is important for us to find other people whose experiences look like our own, and to learn from their advice on how to invest in our careers despite all the challenges that come with military service."

Professor Day will participate in the conference as part of a panel on building a career plan. Professor Steve Berenson, who runs TJSJ's Veterans Legal Assistance Clinic, will participate in a panel on opportunities for military spouse attorneys to gain career experience through community service.

The Military Spouse JD Network is an international network of legal professionals who work to improve the lives of military families. Because unemployment for military spouses regularly outpaces the national average and military spouses face additional barriers due to the unique licensing requirements of state bar associations, MSJDN advocates for bar memberships



# MAKING THE RIGHT MOVES

without additional examination. MSJDN provides support and mentorship for members worldwide.

TJSL has long been a leader in educating military personnel and their spouses. The school has a flexible academic program, participates generously in the Yellow Ribbon Program to fund the education of veterans, and offers numerous courses,

clinics and centers devoted to issues of interest to the military community. Last year, TJSL's annual Women and the Law Conference concerned Women and the Military, and the school welcomed Navy Judge Advocate General VADM Nanette DeRenzi to campus for the event.

[View the Agenda](#)

The Making the Right Moves conference is free for TJSL faculty, staff and students (though you must still [purchase a lunch ticket](#) if you would like to attend the 8th floor lunch reception). Those interested in attending should email [aday@tjsl.edu](mailto:aday@tjsl.edu) to register for the event.

## ERIC BERNSEN '12 MAKES THE MOVE TO THE LAW OFFICE OF PROCOPIO



Eric Bernsen '12 recently landed in the downtown San Diego law office of Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP. "I feel like I am playing for the home team now. I am stoked!" said Bernsen.

Bernsen spent the last year and a half working as Patent Counsel for Knobbe, Martens, Olson, & Bear, LLP in Carmel Valley. He traded his commute for a downtown view this month and is "drinking from the fire hose," as a new Associate Attorney.

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP is a prestigious national business firm dedicated to furthering clients' global interests. As an associate, Bernsen will focus on his specialty: intellectual property and specifically patent law. "I would like to gain more experience in trademark and copyright, but I really enjoy the fast pace and evolution of technology, especially wireless and high tech. It appeals to the geek in me." Bernsen said.

A self-described "Navy brat," Bernsen grew up between Southern Maryland, Rhode Island, and Coronado, which to this day he considers home. As an adult, he too joined the Navy. "I spent 10 years on active duty myself, flying Seahawk helicopters with the Navy prior to coming to TJSL in 2009. My first tour was in Jacksonville, FL where I deployed twice to the Gulf, chasing oil smugglers, and then a year later to the Eastern Pacific, chasing drug smugglers," Bernsen recalled. When it came time to leave active duty, law school appeared the best option for post graduate opportunities," Bernsen said.

Initially, Bernsen was interested in international trade and policy because of his experiences overseas but at TJSL he found other passions. "When I got to TJSL, the Intellectual Property Fellowship was just starting and because of my electrical engineering background that appealed to me," Bernsen explained. This proved to be a turning point in his career, "The Intellectual Property Fellowship and Intellectual Property Tech Externship shaped my career ambitions. They made influential introductions to people for whom I would eventually work." The Intellectual Property Fellowship also led Bernsen to Professor Steve Semeraro, Professor Randy Berholtz, and Professor Jeff Slattery. Grateful, Bernsen describes them as "immensely helpful and encouraging" and "tremendous influences."

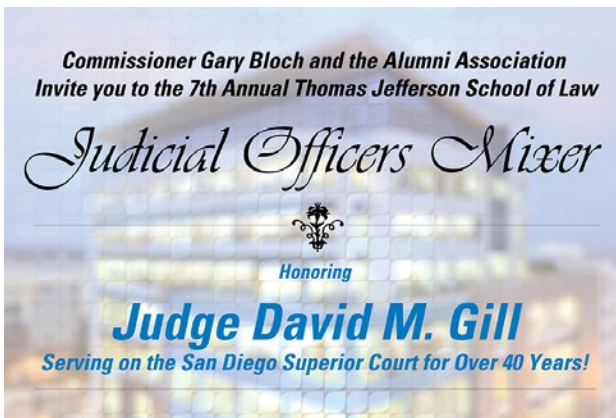
Despite Bernsen's involvement with IP, one of his fondest memories was being awarded the Student Org President of the Year award in 2011, for his leadership of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. "That was one of the proudest moments I had in law school," Bernsen said. "I also really enjoyed working on the TRIPS symposium in 2011 with the IP faculty and students." Moreover, to this day, Bernsen continues his military service as a Lieutenant Commander with reserve unit Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron THREE at North Island, flying the MH-60S Seahawk helicopter.

Bernsen's pragmatic advice to recent graduates is "Set goals for yourself. Do not quit. Do not take 'no.'" You will not likely find your dream job right out of the gate." Bernsen's experience has taught him persistence and patience are essential when searching for a position. Graduates should always keep in mind, "It's much easier to find a job when you have one, so keep asking questions and introducing yourself; be nice and stay in touch. You never know who will call one day or what opportunities will come knocking."

At his new position, Bernsen looks forward to immersing himself further in what he loves most about patent law. "Patent law moves pretty fast, not necessarily the law itself, but the technology. No two cases are the same," he explains. "I like the variety and relative predictability, at least compared to other legal specialties." In addition to developing his career, Bernsen says moving to a downtown office will allow him to be more involved with TJSL.



## REGISTER BY OCTOBER 24 FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL JUDICIAL OFFICERS MIXER ON OCTOBER 30TH



All TJSJL students are invited to participate on Thursday, October 30th in this unique opportunity where you will network with State and Federal Judges from around San Diego.

Every year since 2008, the TJSJL Alumni Association along with Superior Court Commissioner Gary Bloch (Ret.) '81 has provided students with this chance to mingle with some of San Diego's most respected and prestigious individuals from the bench.

This year's event will pay tribute to the Honorable David M. Gill who began his career in the US Army JAG Corps and has sat on the San Diego Superior Court bench for over four decades.

"Judge Gill is being honored for his many years of outstanding service to the bench," said Alumni Board President Jeremy Evans. Judge Gill is a very worthy recipient. It is a privilege for the Alumni Association to host the Judicial Mixer."

This event proves to be very popular each year so you will want to register early. The 7th Annual Judicial Officers Mixer is free to TJSJL students and will take place on the 8th floor at 5:30 pm. [Please RSVP no later than October 24th.](#)

## KRISTEN SPEES '11 RUNS FOR THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

After traveling through 45 countries, conquering four languages, passing bar exams in three states, and playing the saxophone all over the world, this November TJSJL Alumna Kristen Spees '11 will face off against incumbent Mark Amodei for Nevada's House of Representative seat in District 2.

An outdoor enthusiast, at TJSJL Spees enjoyed groups like the TJSJL Surf Society and intramural sports teams. Spees also took advantage of the study abroad program, "It was fantastic. Everything was well planned and the teachers were great mentors. I would recommend that every student go to China and France with TJSJL."

"I received a great legal education and I am so happy I went to Thomas Jefferson," Spees said. "The faculty and staff of TJSJL were so helpful. Career services were helpful in finding internship opportunities. The facility was top-notch."

Spees' advice to current students, "Do as many internships as possible to discover what part of the law you really enjoy. There are so many facets of the law and you can find your passion by exploring different avenues."



Always dedicated to community efforts, after graduating Spees volunteered assisting the local high school's "We the People" mock congressional hearing team and in a local conservation program while clerking for a local judge in her hometown. Now an estate planning attorney, Spees states, "I got into estate planning because I find it to be great part of the law. I rarely go to court and I enjoy meeting with clients and helping them plan for their future."

Eager for progress Spees' decision to run for the U.S. House of Representatives came shortly after having passed the bar in California, Hawaii and Nevada. "I won the primary for the election and now I am traveling and speaking all over Northern Nevada," Spees said. "I have met so many people in my journey and it is great to hear what they have to say and to see what I can do for them if I am elected."

## JOSEPH WILLMORE '11 OPENS THE WILLMORE LAW FIRM

Recently profiled in SDGL.com, Joseph Willmore '11 opened The Willmore Law Firm in January of this year and has gradually gained momentum and a reputation for exceptional service. After obtaining his license in California and Arizona, Willmore's path led him to the coveted "big law" position many law school graduates dream about. However, Willmore's pursuit of law school was not about graduating with honors or being a law review editor, though he accomplished both. "I wanted to be an attorney from a young age, because I hate seeing people being "pushed around" and have always had a passion for helping people through difficult times."

This desire for justice and commitment to serving clients made Willmore keenly aware when he encountered anything less than professional service. "I spent a year working at a large Phoenix-based boutique civil litigation firm. After seeing clients pay high hourly rates and get less than professional service, I was inspired to venture out and start my own practice."

"This was a bumpy journey, but I learned a lot along the way," Willmore said. "I

returned to San Diego in the Fall of 2013 and started the Willmore Law Firm in January of 2014, as a Solo Practitioner with the Center for Solo Practitioners at TJSJ." Today, his practice encompasses family law, divorce, DUI defense, and criminal defense. Though early in his career as a solo practitioner, Willmore was named Best of the Bar by the San Diego Business Journal along with over twenty other TJSJ Alumni this past July.

Willmore, who initially wanted his practice to center around criminal defense, found a stronger passion in family law. "I fell into family law and love it. It takes a certain personality to handle family law clients, particularly considering the high amount of emotional involvement present with the client. I quickly learned that I could both gracefully and successfully help family law clients," said Willmore.



"I believe it is most important to keep in mind that you are responsible for your own success," said Willmore of the mindset that would most benefit recent graduates. "Learn to be comfortable in uncomfortable situations, and to be proactive and go after what you want. Sitting stagnant and expecting work, be it cases or jobs, to be handed to you is not how you will thrive and be successful."

# Want to Submit a **TOUCHSCREEN FLYER?**

If you are a TJSJL organization and would like to have your information promoted on the Touchscreens, please follow these flyer guidelines:

- **Dimensions**

6.6 inches (*width*) x 10.1 inches (*height*)

- **File Format**

PDF or JPG

- **Submit Your Flyer**

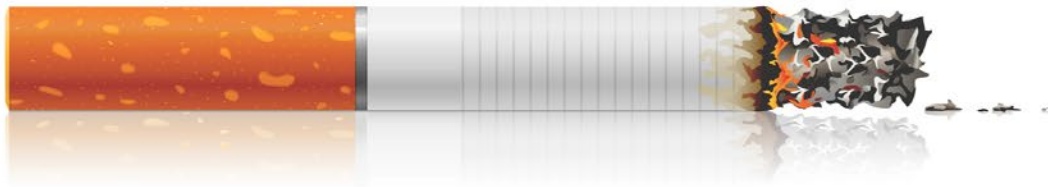
TouchscreenFlyer@tjsl.edu

Please note that Touchscreen Flyers are not placed in The Advisor.

**Microsoft Word Users:** Change paper size by going to Page Layout tab > Size > More Paper Sizes.



# NO SMOKING



California Government Code Section 7596-7598 prohibits smoking in an outdoor area within 20 feet of a main exit, entrance, or operable window of a public building. Smoking is prohibited at all entrances to the TJS� building as well as the 5th floor and 8th floor terraces.

Thank you for your cooperation.